

# Baseball, the National Craze

Exciting Contests For Championships In the Two Chief Leagues.

Great National Sport In Which Millions of "Fans" Are Interested.

By FREDERICK R. TOOMBS.

WHEN a wave of baseball frenzy sweeps over the United States, the most momentous affairs of life and state speedily are thrust aside. Nothing must stand in the way of the American citizen who hungers to hear the resounding crack of a home run hit. A little thing like a presidential campaign in this greatest of all baseball years is ridiculous to contemplate. Many a big league game in this record breaking year has been attended by upward of 35,000 people. Who ever heard of a presidential candidate drawing such an audience?

On the day John W. Kern was notified of his nomination for the vice presidency and Mr. Bryan delivered a much heralded speech on trusts the New York Nationals won both games of a double header in Pittsburgh, these two clubs being associated with Chicago in a sensational three cornered race for the pennant.

What happened in the newspapers? The big dailies spread the baseball story across the front page, and Mr. Kern and Mr. Bryan were pushed back among the advertisements. Mr. Taft and Mr. Sherman have suffered in much the same way. Their lengthy communications to the public are frequently shoved back in juxtaposition to the "Help Wanted" column, and in the choice spots of the papers appear stories relating how "the Chicago Cubs will capture the National pennant provided they win enough games," or "Pittsburgh buys Hod Spinks, the wonderful young pitcher of the Gas House league," or "Larry Lajole of Cleveland almost has a headache." Campaign managers may fume and fret, but baseball is a necessity; politics is a luxury.

In fact, whoever is elected to the presidency the defeated man will be

ners of the earth the scores in the important games of the day, and in London and Paris newspapers daily print the scores in the games in the two leading leagues. When the New York Nationals defeated Pittsburgh in two



NAPOLEON LAJOIE.  
(Manager and second baseman, Cleveland Americans.)

games in one day, the news was sent 10,000 miles by telegraph, wireless telegraph and cable to the Yankee tars of the fleet in Australian waters.

Not only is baseball the national game; it is the national craze. It is the only and original, pure and undiluted, blown in the bottle brand of Dementia Americana.

## Vast Business Enterprise.

And how has this come about? Because baseball is soundly organized. It is a vast business enterprise, run on business principles. Business men have made it worth the while of able, brainy men to devote their lives to studying and developing the art of throwing a ball that curves, of hitting curving balls with a bat and of catching thrown and batted balls. These able, brainy men thus develop the scientific side of the game that almost every full blooded American citizen has learned to believe is the greatest sport medium on earth. The magic spell, the growing fascination of baseball, is explainable as arising from the all important element of chance, the opportunities for spectacular daring, its competitive possibilities, its possibilities in the development of special skill and the ever pressing need of violent action and the exercise of unerring quick wit. Actual science in the exposition of a game comprising these picturesque elements must necessarily attract the support of a nation temperamentally excitable, like the American people. And keen business men have not been slow to take advantage of this.

## The Baseball Trust.

No one but an "insider" has any clear idea of the practically flawless business system controlling baseball. The "baseball trust" is stronger in its field than the Standard Oil company or the beef trust or the tobacco combine. The baseball magnates controlling the National league, the American league, the national commission (the supreme professional baseball governing body) and the scores of minor professional leagues exercise absolute dominion over a business field where the profits amount to millions of dol-



CHRISTY MATHEWSON.  
(Pitcher, New York Nationals.)

lars yearly. By the terrible power of the "blacklist" they force men to work for any employer and in any city the magnates choose. The only remedy the player has yet found is to stop playing with the regularly organized leagues and either go into business of another kind or play with some team not recognized by the regular leagues. In the latter event he is promptly termed an "outlaw." He becomes a baseball pariah.

## Thousands Spent on the Game.

But this relentless system is the saddest feature of baseball, for it has

made a very big something out of a very little nothing. As a result investments are made, the investors knowing almost to a certainty what they can rely on to secure a fair return. When the New York American league team was organized by Frank Farrell, over \$100,000 was spent before a single dollar was taken in. Does not that show what confidence capital has come to have in the earning capacity of a baseball team? The large sums spent on baseball by the public and by the club promoters arouse amazement when made public, but this year all records are in the process of demolition. The average yearly expenses of an American or National league club are now over \$130,000, and this sum will probably be exceeded in future years.

## Famous Rival Pitchers.

The National pennant race has again demonstrated that pitchers and battery are the chief factors in the success of a team, pitchers taking pre-eminence. Men like Brown, Reulbach and Overall of Chicago; Mathewson and Wiltse of New York and Maddox, Willis and Leever of Pittsburgh, practically the cream of the National league twirling talent, draw thousands of spectators merely through the magic of their names and fill the youth of the land with fiery ambition to some day wax likewise heroic. Christy Mathewson, an ex-college student, and Mordecai Brown, once a coal miner, have long been rivals for the pitching supremacy. Mathewson on his work of this year must be ranked above Brown and as the greatest pitcher of the day. "Matty" gets about \$10,000 a year largely because of his famous "drop." This drop curve, or down shoot, of his is one of the most disconcerting curves ever faced by batsmen and may well be termed Mathewson's "breadwinner." The ball breaks its course sharply directly in front of the plate and drops from twelve to twenty-five inches almost perpendicularly.

Brown's most effective curve is his inshoot. His curves apparently do not suffer from the serious handicap arising from his mangled pitching hand,



TYRUS R. COBB.  
(Right fielder, Detroit Americans.)

which is minus a finger and a half; hence the appellation "Three Finger" Brown.

## Phenomenal Batter.

A man who is nearly as important to his team as its best pitcher, as shown by his work this year, is Hans Wagner, the famous shortstop of the Pittsburgh team. Wagner is the greatest all around player in the world. His batting is not sensational; it is phenomenal. Experts consider a man who makes one hit in every game he plays to be an unusually good batsman. To Wagner the making of three hits in one contest is an event of only ordinary importance. In two games played against New York in July Wagner made seven consecutive hits, three of them being two baggers, constituting a new and novel world's record. He scored five of the hits in one game in five times at bat, making three consecutive hits off the delivery of the great Mathewson. Strangely enough, Wagner bats better against Mathewson than against many pitchers readily acknowledged to be vastly inferior in ability. Like "Three Finger" Brown, Wagner was a worker in a coal mine in his earlier days.

Tyrus Cobb of Detroit and Captain Lajoie of Cleveland are two of the widely talked of American league players. Cobb, a comparatively new big league player, is a mighty batsman, leading his league. Lajoie, once a hack driver in Worcester, Mass., now earns \$10,000 a year playing second base and running the Cleveland Blues that recently forged to the top in the pennant race.

More baseball teams have made money this season than in any other, an undeniable evidence of the progress of the game. The attendance throughout the country has broken records. Club statisticians agree that at a National or American league game 2,500 people must pay admissions each day to meet the club expenses. When paid attendance runs below this number the club loses money.

In the American league the pennant race, while not so continuously close as the National, has afforded plenty of excitement. Detroit, St. Louis, Cleveland and Chicago have set the pace most of the year.

The "world's series" contests and their probable outcome are leading topics of the hour in baseballdom.

The world's championship in the world's greatest game is a prize for which millions of dollars are spent each year, and the team that secures it makes for itself and its members a shining place in baseball history for as long as the game shall last, and that means as long as the stars and stripes

## AUTOMOBILE SAFETY.

Device to Prevent Occupants From Being Hurlled Out.

The present tendency of automobilists to drive their cars at the highest possible speed has impelled a resident of Germany to devise what he calls a "safety device for occupants of vehicles." In his mad desire to travel at a mile a minute gait the man at the steering wheel is oblivious to the safety of the others in the car. He can readily retain his equilibrium because of constant holding of the steering wheel, while the others in the car are forced in all directions and frantically clutch at the sides to prevent being thrown out.

As shown in the illustration, his object is to provide a detachable set of spring harness for each occupant, whereby they are prevented from being pitched out when rounding curves and hurdling ruts. This harness consists of a series of rubber straps, which are attached to the shoulders and con-



SAFETY SPRING HARNESS.

nect with a spring. The rubber straps and the spring exercise an elastic pull on the body of the wearer when he is thrown upward and forward by the vehicle striking an obstacle in such a manner that he is pulled back to the seat.

## New Mammals.

There are still some regions, especially in northwestern China, that offer possibilities of future discoveries of mammals, and some skins lately sent to London by Mason Mitchell of the American consular service differ materially from those animals already recorded. One of these skins is that of a takin, a remarkable ruminant of China and Tibet that is usually brownish or golden yellow in color. The new specimen is gray, and this color is believed to mark a totally distinct race, for which the name of Butorcas taxicolor mitchelli has been proposed. Another interesting skin is that of a reddish cat—evidently a Chinese race of the widely scattered bay cat—which a British authority would name Fells teminski mitchelli.

## His Chief Aid.

If ignorance were eliminated the devil could still rely on prejudice to help him in his business.

## Waste Effort.

Most of us think our duty done if, when stillness is enjoined, we sit quietly in a chair. Yet finger tips, mouth or foot may be moving restlessly all the time, depriving us of the full benefit of rest. Quietness should be applied to everything we do. To prove its necessity watch yourself for a day and see how many needless movements you make. Perhaps you are at a desk, and as you write you draw your eyes toward your nose. This habit tenses all the muscles around our eyes, draws up those near the nose and as far down as the chin. Besides being unreflex it is a sure beauty destroyer, making one cross looking. Equally bad is it to drum with the fingers, look and unlock them, rub the hands round and round or keep them ever in motion. Yet how often does one see hands that are kept perfectly still in the lap?—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

## Futurity.

Time, 2 a. m. Voice outside second story window:

"Help! Hello, Jane! Gitme outa this."

Voice inside window, wearily: "Tommy, go get the extension ladder and the ironing board and make a bridge to the tree. Your father would go to the club in his airship tonight, and he's been flopping around in a circle for a half hour and now has lighted in the tree. Tell him not to try to walk on the plank, to crawl, and not to try to bring the airship in the window."—Buffalo Times.

The Tennessee Central will sell round trip tickets to Richmond, Va., Nov. 12 to 16, 1908, inclusive. Final limit returning November 24, 1908. Rate \$29.45.

G. R. NEWMAN, Agent.

## Has Residence Copyrighted.

F. N. Martin, a prominent man of Spokane, has had the plans of his new home, which is unique, copyrighted to prevent imitations. The place is on the order of a Swiss bungalow, and, as far as known, is the only copyrighted home on the coast.

## Engine For Sale.

For sale, a good second hand gasoline engine, 2½ horse power. Fairbanks-Morse make, overhauled and in good running order. Will sell at a great bargain. May be seen at

M. H. MCGREW, Machine Shop  
Corner 8th and Clay Sts.

## Happiness and Beauty.

Happiness is the best beautifier. Health gives a clear skin and bright eyes; interest in others cultivates a look of intelligence.

## Taxes Due.

Your state and county taxes are due. Pay same and save penalty  
J. M. RENSHAW,  
Sheriff Christian County.

## Statues and Posterity.

How many statues we shall leave to future generations! I imagine they will not be a little embarrassed by the number, and, as the glory of most celebrities is short-lived they will not be very grateful to us for the legacy. —Le Petit Parisien.

Stops earache in two minutes; toothache or pain of burn or scald in five minutes; hoarseness, one hour; muscleache, two hours; sore throat, twelve hours—Dr. Thomas Electric Oil, monarch over pain.

## Norway's Wooden Churches.

Some of the wooden churches of Norway are fully 700 years old and are still in an excellent state of preservation. Their timbers have successfully resisted the frosty and almost arctic winters because they have been repeatedly coated with tar.

## CASTORIA.

The Kind You Have Always Bought  
Bears the Signature of *Chas. H. Fletcher*

## Sleeping and Snoring.

"De man who accidentally goes to sleep in church," said Uncle Eben, "somehow seems to get a heap mo' blame than de man who puts in de other six days showin' deliberate disrespect to de sermon."

## Her Constant Watchfulness.

"For mercy's sake, Johnny!" exclaimed Mrs. Lapeling, "take that match out of baby's mouth. Don't you know match heads are poisonous? They contain ever so much Bosphorus!"

Most disfiguring skin eruptions, scrofula, pimples, rashes, etc., are due to impure blood. Burdock Blood Bitters is a cleansing blood tonic. Makes you clear-eyed, clear-brained, clear-skinned.

## Devoutly to Be Wished.

A magazine writer says every married woman should have an income of \$5,000 a year. If more unmarried women had an income of that size, there would be a heavier demand for wedding rings.—Washington Post.

## For Sale at a Bargain.

Scholarship in one of the best Business Universities of the South. Good for any department. Address this office.

## Growl from a Bachelor.

Some women regard marriage as a blessed emancipation from the necessity of caring how their hair is done up.—Exchange.

## CASTORIA.

The Kind You Have Always Bought  
Bears the Signature of *Chas. H. Fletcher*

## Prolific Eggs of Silk Worm.

One ounce of eggs will produce 39,000 silk worms.

# CHOICE BARGAINS!

## Some Fine Offers in Farm Lands and Town Lots.

505 acres, 10 miles south of town, on the Clarks-ville pike, and close to R. R. station on the I. C. road, near school house, and with all modern improvements. This is as fine a body of land as you can find anywhere, and produces large quantities of wheat, corn, hay and tobacco. Has 40 to 50 acres fine timber, 4 tobacco barns, 1 large stock barn, 1 hay shed, 8 cabins, windmill and tank, and all improvements necessary to a first class farm. If you are looking for something extra at a bargain don't fail to see this place.

222 acres, 2 miles south of Garrettsburg—100 acres of this is in timber, containing a lot of red and white oak and poplar, 2-story brick dwelling, 2 tobacco barns, 1 stable, 4 cabins, and other necessary improvements. This place is offered at a real bargain.

200 acres, near Pembroke, rich land and well improved. Runs right up to within ½-mile of the best little town on earth.

211 acres, 5 miles south of town, improvements good, and everything in good shape. An opportunity you cannot afford to miss.

261 acres—only 2 miles from town on the Russellville pike. This farm can be bought cheap, and is an ideal location, and a highly productive place, with good improvements.

309 acres near Bell, Ky. This is a well improved farm, and just what you are looking for. Splendid dwelling, good stable and large tobacco barns and all other out buildings. 40 acres good timber, balance in a high state of cultivation.

18 acres just outside the corporate limits of Hopkinsville, splendid house and all necessary out buildings. Just the very best place you know of to raise chickens and run a garden and fruit farm.

We have some very desirable homes for sale on the best residence streets in the city and at real bargain figures.

A right new modern cottage for sale or rent on 13th street, in the old Sharp addition.

Another one at a bargain on West 18th St.

Also some desirable building lots in different parts of the city at ridiculously low prices.

Call and see us if you are interested in a good home, either in the city or country. Now is the time to buy good property at prices that appeal to your pocket-book.

If you are looking for a good established business, well located, we have got just what you are looking for, and at the right price.

# Planters Bank & Trust Co.